

# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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## THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

### Help and Hints in Season.

After all Party Rules are not to receive amendment at the forthcoming Labour Party Annual Conference. A number of amendments to the Party constitution were proposed two years ago at Margate and the whole of these were referred to the Executive in order that they should go into the larger question of the Constitution and Standing Orders, both national and local. The year of industrial tribulation which followed made revision practically impossible, and the Party's absorption this year in its election programme, added to peculiar difficulties at the Head Office of the Party, account for the further postponement this year. One wonders how it may be possible to carry this matter through in time for next year's Conference in view of the anticipated General Election. However, the Movement is at present experiencing no special inconvenience from the existing Constitution, and although in many respect it has become outworn, and defects have appeared, it can hardly be said that the present would have been a happy time to launch new rules on the Local and National Movements.

Apropos of this matter, one point will merit reiteration. The Rules for Local Parties were, it will be remembered, adopted along with the rest of the Constitution in 1918 after a Conference adjournment of one month during which consultations were held with representatives of Local Parties. There was at first a general belief that it was obligatory on Local Parties to accept without alteration the set of rules applicable to their constituency, and for a year or so all sorts of amendments to suit various constituencies were in the air, and some were brought forward at the Annual Conference at Southport. It was there made clear by Mr. Henderson that the Rules were Model Rules, and that the Executive would be prepared to give generous consideration to local amendments so long as

the rules as amended could be said to be in harmony with the general principles laid down in the model sets. That, of course, remains the position to-day.

The curious thing, however, is that there are some people who do not to-day understand this position. Only recently we had a case under notice where a Local Party had proposed certain alterations of rule and secured the endorsement of them from Headquarters, yet certain dissatisfied members having secured copies of the Model Rules charged their Party with breaking them, all unaware of the existence of the amended rules. An opinion had actually been sought in a certain quarter and an interpretation of the (Model) rule asked for. Naturally the answer they got was the answer they wanted; but it was not the correct one, for the rules of a Local Party are those which have been adopted by them and endorsed by the National E.C. and not necessarily the Model Rules (unfinished, as they are, in penny pamphlet form). All Parties should formally adopt rules, and if any amendments are made to the Model Set those of course stand after National E.C. consent has been obtained. As a matter of fact the rules as printed require local adaptation in two or three places; the basis of representation to the Management Committee and the E.C. has always to be fixed before the rules can be made applicable.

We are aware of course that in some cases Parties have been carrying on without any formal adoption of rules at all. In such cases the National E.C. have no alternative but to assume the Model Rules as being those of the Local Party.

It has again been borne in upon us that some of our local comrades are not sufficiently careful for the future when setting up Labour Clubs. We could give a number of instances where clubs have been established solely by the energy and for the benefit of the

Local Labour Movement, but in the course of a year or two's working the absorption of the principal Party officers in other activities has led to the club management getting more and more out of touch with the Party, and in some cases out of sympathy with them. We know of cases where the Party has actually been divorced from the club entirely, and the latter has degenerated into a purely commercial undertaking. A worse evil befalls in some places where through lack of recognition of the Party's ideals, clubs have degenerated into mere drinking dens. We are speaking plainly in this matter, because we can put our finger on the spot in several towns where the clubs established by Labour men have proved a hindrance and not a help to the Labour Movement. Therefore let our friends beware. When setting up clubs a way must be found to keep them under Party control. And the temptation to get rich quickly must be resisted if the atmosphere of the club is to remain wholesome and illustrative of Labour's social ideals. By the way, how many Labour Clubs reward their bar-tenders on the sale of food equally with the sale of intoxicants?

By the time these lines are read the Registration sittings will be in full cry. Hardly, however, will the new Register have come into force before preparation will have commenced for the momentous register on which the General Election must be fought. The last day of the qualifying period for next year's register will be the 1st December—in Scotland the 15th December. Thus, in laying one's plans for the coming Municipal Elections it is vital that provision should be made for collecting the maximum of information concerning newly-qualified people. Every Party should be at work already in collecting names of the newly-qualified persons who will be entitled to be registered under the enlarged Franchise. It will be downright foolish to crowd this matter into the coming Winter months. The addition of several million persons to the electorate means an addition in every constituency running well into four figures, and if the experience of the last enlargement of the Franchise is anything to go by there is a possibility of a very big leakage on the first register. And if this is to be the election register

the "Bid for Power" will be all the more likely of success if we have ensured that the leakage doesn't consist of too many Labour supporters.

There is an aspect of the present condition of Labour organisation in the country to which we have noticed no reference elsewhere. The evil of unemployment more *general*, though less in volume, a few years ago than to-day, seems to have settled itself down with peculiar acuteness in certain centres where coal, cotton, shipbuilding and iron and steel are down badly. The gross increase in unemployment is attributable to the acuteness of the trouble in all these places. In some constituencies notably in the Midlands and farther South new and prosperous industries are accounting for a much lessened unemployment rate. It can be said with truth that by comparison, and we mean this only as a matter of degree, certain parts of the country are experiencing a boom. Now it seems to us that there is a moral to be drawn from this state of affairs. The once proud Coal and Cotton will have diminished heads in the coming Labour Party Conference, but boiled down to sober truth this means that the great industrial centres which a few years ago were contributing through their Unions so materially to Party Finance are no longer able to pay the piper. What then are the prosperous (by comparison) areas doing? And what are the new rich areas doing? Would it be believed that in one of them the Local Party has not paid its affiliation fee for the present year?

The point we wish to rub home is that if there is to be transference of industrial prosperity from one part of the country to the other, the newer places must quickly realise that their local prosperity is something to be shared and if they are not yet experiencing Party prosperity then their opportunity must be realised. We wish that certain Local Parties of our acquaintance could appreciate the anguish and anxieties of certain other towns and centres. If they did they would realise they are in a fortunate state indeed, and this would be something on the road to realising a new obligation.



## IMPORTANT NEW SERIES

**Preparation for the General Election**

BY THE EDITOR.

ARTICLE V.

I am still dealing with the managerial side of the election.

**General Organisation.**

This department, as I have pointed out, deals with the final control of workers and the canvass throughout the Division. It has the supervision of all Committee Rooms; their engagement and equipment; bill distribution and the distribution of centrally printed matter to the localities.

I am assuming that the advice given in the earlier articles as to obtaining workers has been followed. One cannot fight elections without local workers, and if they are not available most of the earlier efforts in the contest are best directed to securing them.

As to the control of workers, whatever the type of Division, the centre should know the names of every individual whose services are accepted, and should have, as far as is practicable, a record of the work each individual is willing or capable of doing, and the Committee Room to which the worker is attached. This is what is meant by general control of workers. It does not at all mean that every worker receives his instructions from the centre. That obviously cannot be the case, but because the candidate and agent are responsible in law for the actions of every person whose services are accepted it is clearly necessary that workers who report to Local Committee Rooms should have their names sent on. Not only so but a general circular to all helpers is desirable at least once or twice during a contest, and perhaps a letter of thanks after it is all over. It is an easy matter to record names and addresses of helpers as they come in. It is opportune to reproduce here a little card which I have found useful and which was illustrated in the first issue of the *Labour Organiser*. The card is distributed freely amongst sympathisers and should be one of the first items of printing. The card has been copied a good deal since our first reproduction and used in dozens of contests as our specimens show us. It doesn't necessarily follow that the worker can or will be asked to perform all the functions he pro-

mises, but there is an educational value in showing workers what are the possibilities of help and in obtaining from them a definite offer in some direction or other.

## THE LABOUR PARTY

**"WHAT-WILL-I-DO CARD"**

Being a Census of our Willing Workers

I PROMISE TO HELP SECURE A RINGING  
LABOUR VICTORY BY :

Canvassing house-to-house .....	.....
Canvassing for other Workers .....	.....
Canvassing Friends, Workmates .....	.....
Helping at Meetings .....	.....
Writing in Committee Rooms .....	.....
Acting as Cyclist (own bicycle) .....	.....
Acting as Fetcher-up on Polling Day .....	.....
Acting as Checker on Polling Day .....	.....
Showing Bills, etc. ....	.....
Lending Committee Room .....	.....
Distributing Bills, etc. ....	.....
Acting as Messenger on Polling Day .....	.....
Lending Conveyance .....	.....
Acting as Chairman at meetings .....	.....

Mark X opposite your promises.

Name .....

Address .....

Name of my Trade Union .....

Polling District or Ward (leave blank)

Reg. No. .... (leave blank)

THANK YOU !

**Helping Weak Areas.**

It is one of the functions of the centre to help the weaker localities and to make the best disposition of the Party's strength. Care should be taken in this matter. It is important to poll the very last voter in one's strongholds. Real strength of workers is needed to do this and it is unwise to deplete the forces in a really promising place merely to send them forth to waste their sweetness on the desert air. Dissipation of strength is something to be guarded against and in many contests to attempt to spread one's strength

evenly in all parts of the Division, good or bad, would mean insufficient effort in the stronghold. It is sheer rubbish of people to talk at election times of this area or that area being all right and that the votes are to be depended upon. They must be worked nevertheless and enthused to the last degree. Then they will poll. But to take the workers away or to slacken in any effort may mean a high proportionate loss. Therefore then, caution in sending workers from one area to another. It should be done where really possible, but the danger often lies in good workers from a town wanting to spend their time travelling several miles into rural areas where possible votes are few and far between. Work the rural areas by all means, but don't leave the citadel unmanned while the garrison goes on a sortie.

### Charge of Committee Rooms.

From the centre all Committee Rooms are "controlled"; controlled on the lines we have indicated above. Obviously the control is limited to general supervision, but all Committee Rooms must understand that their work is subordinate to the general plans made from the centre and that general orders as to the conduct of the rooms must be carried out. It is for the centre to insist that all Committee Rooms are conducted in an orderly manner, kept clean, fully staffed, and that they are real publicity centres, besides being hives of industry. A good deal of tact is required to ensure this, with constant visitation and reports from trusted people. Contact is everything; an unvisited or neglected Committee Room will degenerate, perhaps become the centre of discontent and a retreat for grumblers. If local workers are fairly well trained there will be no real difficulty in their carrying on the work. Meetings of workers are almost always necessary, and one should be held right early in the contest when an endeavour should be made both to enthuse and to instruct.

The centre should of course engage all Committee Rooms. The agent's contract is necessary and he should ascertain that any proposed room falls within the requirements of the law. It is best, too, for the centre to equip all Committee Rooms for locally-bought stationery is often bought in too lavish style. Committee Room bills should

be supplied, and in ordering these it is necessary to ensure a reserve supply.

The supervision of the canvass throughout the Division is perhaps the most important function falling under the heading of General Organisation. Again constituencies differ; and in the case of some County constituencies there may be towns within the area where the canvass will be almost entirely a self-contained and controlled matter. But nevertheless it must conform to the central requirements as to report.

### The Canvass.

The centre should always be acquainted of any difficulties in the issue of the canvass cards, and should receive a daily report of the result of the canvassing. This is always one of the hardest things to impress upon workers. The latter are generally so blissfully optimistic, and those in charge at the local Committee Rooms are at the same time so absorbed in their immediate work that their conscience is soon salved to account of any remissness in reporting to the centre. "Everything is going tip-top," however, is no earthly good as a substitute for the canvass report. To the intelligent election agent the canvass figures tell a story that no amount of optimism can contradict. They show just what has been done; they show where optimistic canvassers are doing a bad canvass; they indicate whether the best centres are being tackled first or solely, and enable him to discount the figures accurately. A poor return from an area shows where workers or encouragement is needed, and day by day they show with unfailing accuracy certain other aspects of the election other than the bald figures they supply. The centre then must insist on its reports and hammer at it until it gets them. The Labour Party canvass reports and canvass summaries are admirable to use for this work.

One of the central functions which is generally badly done is the handling of printing. It is not enough to have good printing; one requires to see that one is getting what is to be paid for and that the whole is to be put to proper use. The printer's deliveries must be checked and the printing counted or weighed. It is so easy to send eight or nine thousand instead of ten thousand! And while this may be exceptional



# Addressograph

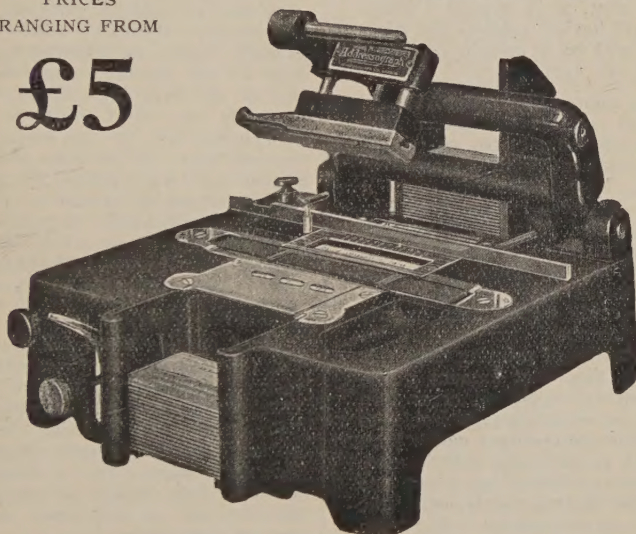
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FROM METAL TYPE  
THROUGH A RIBBON.



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Head Office and Works:

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Telephone: WILLESSEN 1330 (3 lines).

such an experience has befallen me, and is explainable by the rush at which printers work at election times.

### **Sending Out Literature.**

To secure the even distribution of literature throughout a Division there is nothing to beat a quota system. Total the number of electors for which each Committee Room or Polling District Committee or centre is to be responsible; the total, of course, should correspond with the total number of electors. Work out the percentages which the numbers for each area will bear to the gross total, ignoring decimals. It will be found that the percentages may vary from two to even twenty per cent. in a typical County Division, and having ignored the decimals there will be a margin of 5 per cent. to 10 per cent.

To take a simple illustration. Where there are six centres the percentages may have worked out at 20, 18, 16, 15, 14, and 12 per cent. with a margin of 6 per cent. Now if there is to be a distribution of 10,000 leaflets Area No. 1 will be entitled to 2,000, No. 2 to 1,800, No. 3 to 1,500 and so on, leaving 600 over for reserves, samples and printers' deficiencies. A distribution of 5,000 photo cards would mean exactly half these numbers for each area. Whatever amount of printing done this system gives the exact amount necessary to properly supply all areas. In practice it is sometimes desirable to vary the exact percentages which have been arrived at, throwing a little more literature into certain areas where one is sure of distribution and lessening the quantity in an area where it is certain out-voters or mansion houses will not be touched. Obviously if one can arrange the percentages so that 5 or 10 becomes a common denominator counting will be simplified.

### **The Clerical Department.**

The first thing to be decided is whether the "writing-up" is to be centralised or no, though in any case there must be a Clerical Department at the centre. On general principles I prefer centralisation of writing-up, but regard has to be had to Committee Room facilities, the experience of workers, and local possibilities and conveniences. There should always, however, be a reluctance to decentralise clerical work and where it is desirable to bow to

local wishes this attitude will strengthen the stipulations that must be made regarding the methods adopted and the general course of the work.

An experienced person should be placed in charge of the writing of envelopes, canvass cards and poll cards. It is desirable to have this department right away from any public room, and the help of only those who have some clerical experience should be accepted, who can follow instructions, and can give at least two hours at a time to the work. The officer in charge of this department should be careful to keep his registers in good condition, and should exercise supervision over the work being done. I am assuming that envelopes to workers and others, for a preliminary circular, were prepared actually before the clerical department was set up, for that would have been one of the first steps in the election. Probably the first business of the department will be the preparation of canvass cards, or in some districts, of pasted registers. Where the work has been localised the person at the centre should nevertheless be acquainted of the progress being made, for the agent must satisfy himself early in the contest that all is ready to begin canvassing.

### **The Free Postage.**

Hard on this work follows preparation for the free postage—always a huge task. Specially prepared election envelopes are best and an article on the "Preparation of Election Envelopes" appeared in the *Labour Organiser* for February, 1923. As the envelopes are written they should be checked and bundled and carried clear away from the writing tables.

The next step will be the preparation of matter to go with the free postage, work probably involving a good deal of collating and folding. We prefer an election address printed in the News Sheet to one separately printed, and if a good News Sheet has been prepared little else need be inserted in the envelopes. It is a consideration to save the cost of fifty or hundred-thousand leaflets together with the collating, folding and inserting involved by same. The problem always arises whether or no the poll card should go with the free postage. If it does some delay is involved, but on the whole the question of finance dictates a necessity for this in most contests; a second postage is



mostly unthinkable. The campaign is lucky if two issues of the News Sheet can be made, for the objection that the election address is being held back for the poll cards can be overcome by printing the address in the first issue and distributing same door to door. By the way, if there are two issues of the News Sheet a difference in get-up is desirable.

### Sundry Clerical Work.

In the course of the contest the clerical department will receive calls for urgent supplies of duplicating, addressed envelopes, and similar demands. This will be especially the case if meetings in country districts are convened by duplicated personal circulars. In any case this class of work is best under the supervision of the clerical department. Casual workers can be put to addressing short lots of envelopes while longer stayers can be kept on the main work.

Within the purview of clerical work is the issue of stationery supplies. An advantage is to be gained by supplying everything of this sort from one centre. As the contest gets going canvass returns will be coming in. Canvassers will be reporting the results of their work to the local Committee Rooms and here the registers should be marked up; but it is desirable that the central registers should also be marked. If a good system is at work the localities should each day be sending into the clerical department either their marked register for the marks to be duplicated or a foolscap sheet containing the register numbers of all persons who have been marked up. This check on local records is a valuable one where it can be done. Its principal value is seen at the end of the contest when the clerical department has got through the bulk of its work. Instead of allowing the clerical workers to go slack they should now be switched over to help the Local Committees in the preparation of wall-boards and other matter ready for polling day. If the wall-boards can be marked up at the centre is a distinct advantage, for the local work then amounts to merely filling in the later reports.

### Finance.

As I have pointed out in dividing the agent's functions into several categories and calling them departments, it has not been suggested that each of them should

be devolved upon subordinates. Finance is one of the first concerns of the agent, and he cannot possibly devolve the functions of this department on to another, though he may have a trusted clerk or colleague who can relieve him of most of the strain.

### Account Keeping.

Before the contest begins there is the budget to prepare, and it is necessary to instal some reliable system of book-keeping. I have seen many systems of election accounts and frankly confess that I have yet to see one which is both simple and sound, and at the same time facilitates the preparation of the election returns in the statutory form. The ideal is of course the Cash Book, and Expenses Day Book from which the items are posted to Ledger entries under their respective statutory heads. But the Expenses Day Book will contain many entries which are merely estimates, and so the totals of Cash Book and Day Book will only at any day give an approximation of the position. If the entries have been posted up (or analysed out on sheets) it becomes necessary as accounts are paid, *i.e.*, as they disappear from the Expenses Day Book into the Cash Book, to show as discounts or additions the differences between the estimates and the ascertained payment. Otherwise the books would not balance. The simplest plan that has yet been devised for getting over this difficulty has been to keep two Day Books, one inward and the other outward, together with the Cash Book. The agent would enter all cash in the Cash Book and all expenses incurred in the Inward Day Book. If an entry entered originally as an estimate (say the incidentals of the Committee Room) was afterwards found to be over-estimated the difference, which is really a credit, would be entered in the outward Day Book. Under-estimates simply mean an entry of the difference in the Inward Day Book. The total of the Inward Day Book less the total of the Outward Day Book and plus the total of the Cash Book would at all times represent the actual position. For a further elucidation of these points we cannot do better than refer our readers to the article on "Election Account Keeping," and the forms illustrated therein, which appeared in our "Election Preparation Edition" for April, 1922.

The plain truth, however, has to be faced up to that the majority of election agents will have no time for expert book-keeping, and provided they can get a fairly workable and accurate system of accounts during the election they are prepared for additional labour after the election is over if it is going to save them time during the election. For these the unanalysed Cash Book and Day Book can be prescribed, but the Outward Day Book is still desirable to show credits; or, if one prefers, a book with journal rulings may be used, and serve both the latter purposes.

In many contests some devolution of spending authority becomes necessary. Whatever authority is given should be in writing, and the purpose should be specified. The limit should be kept as low as possible and strictly adhered to. As to the preparation of the election return see articles on this matter which appeared in the *Labour Organiser* for August, 1926, September, 1926, and December, 1926.

*To be Continued.*

[Next month we shall deal with Local Work in Parliamentary Elections.]

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## LOCAL NEWSPAPER MEMS.

From time to time we receive enquiries concerning the flotation of Local Labour broadsheets. Our readers will therefore be interested in the finances of a typical local production. The *Dewsbury Citizen* is an eight-page demy folio monthly, four columns to the page, and its contents are diversified. There is a guaranteed monthly circulation of 10,000 copies and these are given away. Mr. J. Simpson, the local Secretary and Agent, writes us that the total cost of printing and distribution of the first number was £25 2s. 6d. The revenue from advertisements was £20 12s. 6d. and the loss was £4 10s. od.—quite a modest sum to pay for the amount of propaganda done. The second number cost a trifle less, but the advertisement revenue was up nearly £4, the loss being 17/9 only. It is hoped that the current number will show a profit particularly as most of the adverts are on 12 months' contracts. By the way, distributors are paid at the rate of 6/6 per thousand copies. Our readers who are contemplating newspapers have now got a lesson before them. Obviously the procuration of advertisements is all-important. We congratulate Mr. Simpson and the Dewsbury Labour Party on an excellent piece of work.

Address: *Citizen Office*, Oates Street, Dewsbury.

*Frank Smith's Labour Monthly*, the organ of the Nuneaton Labour Party, has now assumed printed form and become *The Labour Monthly*, with the famous Labour Candidate well showing on the front page. The paper is a crown quarto eight-page, and it is a sufficient description to say that it is a little paper with a punch. Our good wishes.

Address: *The Labour Monthly*, Labour Club, Harefield Road, Nuneaton.

We are glad to note that the publication of the *Greenwich Times* has now been revived. In its new form it is a medium quarto of eight pages. There is a guaranteed circulation of 14,000 copies per issue, and the paper is a monthly. We understand from Mr. A. Glyn Evans, the local Secretary and Labour Agent, that an effective organisation has been set up to cope with the big task of distribution. Eighty distributors have been enlisted mostly



for streets close by their residence. The paper should prove a powerful aid in bringing Greenwich nearer to the proud position in the Labour Movement occupied by its near neighbour at Woolwich.

Address: *The Greenwich Times*,  
32, Woolwich Road, Greenwich,  
S.E.10.

The *Paddington Echo*, an eight-page crown folio monthly, price one penny, is the official organ of the North Paddington D.L.P. and has been running for something under a year. We note that our old friend, Mr. P. F. Pollard, formerly of Colchester, is associated as Labour Agent in the production of this paper. The *Paddington Echo* is well printed, and we note that there are contents of interest in the home which help to increase its appeal.

Address: The Secretary, Press Committee, *Paddington Echo*, 56, Sixth Avenue, Queen's Park, W.10.

One of the few Labour weekly newspapers is the *Bristol Labour Weekly*, which has a large circulation in Bristol and its environs. It is priced at one penny. The paper is a well got-up crown folio of eight pages with some clever cartoons. There are some able contributors and the paper has a strong appeal. It is run by the Bristol Newspaper Society, Ltd., an organisation of Labour people.

Address: *The Bristol Labour Weekly*, Editorial Offices, 26, Hampton Park, Redland, Bristol. Business Offices, Bristol Printers, Ltd., Stratton Street, St. Paul's, Bristol.

No. 1 of the *Nottingham Forward* is to hand—a journal run in the interests of the Co-operative and Labour Party in the Central Division. The paper is a four-page demy folio with a first free issue of 10,000 copies. Labour in Nottingham has an uphill task and no other press organ. We trust the *Nottingham Forward* has come to stay for its possibilities are very great.

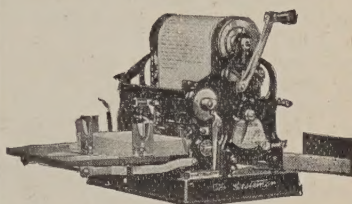
Address: *Nottingham Forward*, Parliament Buildings, Upper Parliament Street, Nottingham.

We have received a copy of the *Walthamstow Observer*, which is a large four-sheet issue of which nearly

## 52 Labour Agents

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to communicate rapidly and secretly with either the electors or helpers.

to reach every member of the constituency.

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DEPARTMENT "L"

**37 Ludgate Hill, E.C.4**

**Telephone: HOLBORN 1042**

(6 lines)

three-quarters of the space available is absorbed with advertisements. In such case a large issue is possible, and we are not surprised to note that there is a guaranteed circulation of 20,000 copies per month. With comparatively small space left for propaganda and news our friends would do well to consider the possibility of presenting same as vigorously and attractively as possible. Walthamstow has been to the fore with capable advertisement sheets before, and we wish the new venture every success.

Address: *Walthamstow Observer*,  
342, Hoe Road, Walthamstow, E.17.

The *Leyton and Leytonstone Pioneer* is another large propaganda sheet carrying a goodly advertisement revenue. More than half the space is taken with advertisements in the issue before us, and we note that 28,000 copies have been issued. This is a distinct accomplishment.

Address: *Leyton and Leytonstone Pioneer*, 200, Colchester Road, Leyton, E.10.

### **BARROW LEADS AGAIN.** **Something About the Labour Silver Band.**

On another page we reproduce a photograph of the famous Barrow Labour Silver Band. Barrow owes this band largely to its successful contribution scheme inaugurated a few years ago, and we are indebted to Ald. Bram Longstaffe for the opportunity to reproduce the photograph in our pages and to give some particulars concerning the work of the Band.

"Men have marched to death to the strains of a band; we are hoping that they will march to the strains of the Labour Band towards a greater and fuller life." So writes Bram Longstaffe and it is hoped that the idea of establishing bands of this character will be taken up by the movement and that eventually it will be possible for the National Movement to hold a National Band Festival where a trophy could be competed for by Labour Bands.

Certainly the Barrow Labour Silver Band has proved its worth. We understand that an offer was recently made to the National Executive of the Labour Party to use the Band in Birmingham during the Annual Conference in an endeavour to raise some of the £100,000 Bid for Power Fund. Un-

fortunately it has not been found possible to avail the Party of this offer but the Band is prepared to fall in with any arrangements which can be made for a tour of the Local Labour Parties—Lancashire for preference. They carry with them lantern slides for Labour community singing including from "These Things Shall Be" to the "Red Flag" and the "Internationale."

The instruments for the Band cost £405. The uniforms alone cost £120. The uniform is blue, decorated with much gold braid and red, with a broad red stripe down the seam of the trousers and the Band is an imposing turn-out for any procession.

During one summer Barrow ran a forum every Wednesday evening in the Market Square. The band was on duty for an hour before the time for commencing the speeches and on every occasion the promoters were assured of an audience of at least 500 or 600 before commencing the meeting. On one occasion over £70 was raised for the miners in 2½ hours. Great crowds are drawn by the band whether the meeting is held in the open spaces in the town or on the seafront, and at indoor meetings the band plays for half an hour before the chair is taken.

The band takes no part in Empire celebrations but it is in evidence in Civic processions; in the Park on Sundays and in all appeals for good causes. Appeals made to the general public always meet with success.

Barrow would not care to part with its Labour Band. Public meetings, Mr. Longstaffe informs us, would appear dead and intolerable after the experience of the last few years. The band creates the right atmosphere and the work of the speakers is made more pleasant.

We congratulate the Barrow Labour Party and hope that they may have many imitators.

### **TO BAZAAR WORKERS.**

Bazaar Secretaries and other Organisers are invited to write for price lists and samples of High-Class Perfumes, etc. Eau-de-Cologne, Lavender Water, Genuine Otto Perfumes, Sachets, Face Powders, etc. Ready Sales, substantial profits.

R. T. HARRISON,  
34 Corrie Rd., Clifton, Manchester





THE BARROW-IN-FURNESS LABOUR SILVER BAND (See opposite page).

# **AN ELECTION WORKER QUESTIONS THE AGENT: SCENE: —ANY COMMITTEE ROOM.**

The following interesting dialogue was sent out to workers during the last Municipal Elections by Mr. Hinley Atkinson, Central Political Agent to the Birmingham (Borough) Labour Party.

Worker: I want to help in this Election, Mr. Agent.

Agent: Very well, Comrade, I want your help as a canvasser.

Worker: Oh, I say, anything but that! It's not really useful work, and besides, I'm no use at arguing on the doorstep.

Agent: Let me assure you that you are entirely wrong, Comrade. Canvassing is not only useful work, it is without question the most important work in an election. Do not take my word for it; every election expert in every party will tell you the same thing. And, most emphatically, *canvassing is not arguing on the doorstep.*

Worker: Well, if it is as important as you say, I think it is my duty to go canvassing; but if I am not to argue (and I'm glad I'm not to) how can canvassing be so important? What is its value?

Agent: Let me briefly explain: you agree that our object in this election is to poll every supporter?

Worker: Yes—we shan't win if we don't.

Agent: Do you know that at the last Municipal Election, less than 40 out of every 100 electors voted; and do you think the 60 out of every 100 who did not vote were all Labour opponents?

Worker: I know a number of people myself who would have voted Labour,

but they forgot to vote. Some of them profess to be Labour too. They would have voted if someone had reminded them.

Agent: These are just the people who make canvassing necessary. You see your own experience proves how necessary canvassing is. If we have a record which tells us who our supporters are, very few miss recording their votes. Our workers remind them on Polling Day. But we must canvass to find out where these people live so that our workers can remind them.

Worker: I begin to understand your statement that canvassing does not mean arguing. You want only information as to where our supporters live.

Agent: Yes, canvassing is just a friendly call to ask a polite question on behalf of the Candidate. The fact that some of these people do not give a definite reply to your inquiry is not intended to be an opportunity for argument. A canvasser's own judgment tells him whether to mark his record "FOR," "AGAINST," or "DOUBTFUL." Don't you agree that the people who tell us who our supporters are deserve the credit for doing most important work?

Worker: Yes, I do agree that it is important work. Propaganda is of little use unless we find out whom we have converted; why, we could win any seat in the City if we could only put our fingers on the people who are already our supporters. It will be time enough to start arguing on the doorstep after we have discovered all the people who are supporters now. I'll go to the Polling District Captain now and begin my share of the canvass at once.



TELEPHONE: QUINTON 30.

**J. DUGMORE & SONS,**  
QUINTON, BIRMINGHAM.

OF EVERY

**BADGES**

DESCRIPTION

FOR

TRADE UNIONS, ELECTIONS, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, CORPORATIONS, COMPANIES, ETC. PORTRAIT BADGES, ENAMELLED BADGES, FLAGS, BUTTONS, PINS, NECK CHAINS, CHARMS, ETC. BADGES DESIGNED FOR ANY PURPOSE. IDEAS DEVELOPED FROM ROUGH SKETCHES.

MAKERS OF THE LABOUR PARTY BADGE (OBTAINABLE FROM LABOUR PARTY ONLY).



## Saving Labour with an Addressing Machine.

In practically every Labour office circularisation forms a heavy part of the week's work. There are circulars to electors, delegates, workers, sellers, etc., and in every well-ordered agent's office lists running into several hundred names are in constant use. We are surprised that more is not made of the opportunities for reducing routine work, particularly as so many of those engaged in it frequently see the advantages of time-saving office appliances when, in their capacity as Town Councillors, and similar offices, they observe the working of such things, or sanction expenses for their purchase.

An addressing machine is not an expensive item, and it certainly saves its cost over and over again. The "Addressograph," illustrated in our pages, is one of the soundest machines on the market, and remarkable value for money. True there are elaborate models adapted for work in big business offices, but there are also two or three efficient models peculiarly suited for work in Labour offices and the price runs down as low as £5. There are other models between £10 and £15 with additional attachments, which make them just "the goods."

The "Addressograph" is on the embossed metal plate addressing system, that is to say, plates are prepared for each address and the machine prints through a ribbon. In appearance the address is indistinguishable from typewriting, though the "Addressograph" will produce fifteen times as much routine work as can be got by the expert typist out of her typewriter.

When ordering a machine one's lists of names are supplied and a small charge is made for each plate varying according to the nature of same. There is, for those who can spare the money, a machine which can emboss the plates in one's own office. The plates vary in style according to the extent to which they are visible, and the extent to which they are indexed. Various styles of type are available.

Nothing is further from the truth than to suppose that the "Addressograph" is of use solely for addressing envelopes. There are several other uses; thus the indexing may actually be so done as to avoid the necessity of a separate card index. The machine may

also be used for printing the name and address on duplicated form letters and thus give to each of them that personal touch which helps to make the form letter effective. Circulars to polling district secretaries, workers and sellers need no longer be so impersonal.

The "Addressograph" also is adaptable in many ways in preparing lists of names and tabular statements. There are a number of attachments for the model illustrated in our advertising pages which are obtainable, and add to its usefulness. Model B/2 is the one illustrated, and the address plates are fed from the store at the back by pressing a thumb lever. Addresses not required may be skipped without any previous sorting. There is a dating attachment, envelope and side gauge.

The Model H/3 has an automatic feed plate, and is filled with consecutive duplicate and repeating arrangements, thus allowing one, two, three or more printings being made before the plate automatically passes on.

Of the attachments, we need only mention the "envelope throw-off" which will eject envelopes and stack them in the address plate boxes at the side of the machine; the "lister" which permits printing names or names and addresses on ruled sheets of paper at great speeds; "cut offs," thus enabling one to print only part of an address plate, i.e., to print names without addresses and so forth, the "Counter" to count the number of impressions made. There are other gadgets all of which testify to the wonderful ingenuity and manifold uses of the "Addressograph."

We strongly advise our readers to make some enquiries concerning this adaptable time-saver and to ask for a trial of one of the machines.

*What you save in Cash  
you lose in Efficiency  
unless all the officers of  
your Party get the*

**Labour Organiser.**

## HINTS ON PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DISCUSSION.

By COUN. H. EASTWOOD,  
*Labour Agent, Bolton.*

Below is a useful circular recently sent out by Mr. H. Eastwood to his workers in Bolton. These tips are worth passing on:—

The following hints may be of service, if thought out and practised. Test them on your favourite subject, and do not hesitate to vary them to suit your requirements. In the case of discussion memorise the following questions.

**WHY? HOW? WHEN? WHO? WHERE? WHAT?** It does not really matter whether you are for the question before the meeting, or against it: the same questions will serve you. You can ask yourself (or the meeting) the questions, and then proceed to answer them. Thus:—Suppose the question before the meeting is to spend the sum of £500 os. od. on Co-operative Movement Propaganda. Ask the foregoing questions in the following manner. **WHY** the need for this expenditure? **HOW** will the money be spent? **WHEN** will it be spent? (In a month or a year, etc.) **WHO** will be responsible, the Committee or the Officials or the Members' meeting or the Districts? **WHERE** is it to be spent? In a particular district, or in a general area? **WHAT** form will it take? Concerts or speeches or leaflets, etc? **AND WHAT** will be the result? and so on.

### PREPARATION OF A SPEECH.

Whenever possible, select a specific subject—it is better than a general one if you are a beginner. Try the following form

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. INTRODUCTION. | Five minutes. |
| 2. THEESIS.      | Ten minutes.  |
| 3. ANTITHESIS.   | Ten minutes.  |
| 4. SYNTHESIS.    | Ten minutes.  |
| 5. SUMMARY.      | Five minutes. |
| 6. PERORATION.   | Five minutes. |

Here is the routine of a 45 minutes' speech. Vary the time and the proportions to suit yourself.

If time is short, cut out altogether 1, 5, and 6, and reduce the other points.

### USEFUL EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC SUBJECTS.

LABOUR REPRESENTATION. MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISE. TRADE UNIONISTS. CO-OPERATION. EDUCATION. WAR AND PEACE. NATIONALISATION. DIRECT

LABOUR. HOUSING. DEMOCRACY. SOCIAL JUSTICE, LAND REFORM.

**EXPLANATIONS.** The *introduction* can be a reference to the importance of the subject, or the occasion. A cutting from the Press report of opponent's speech. A Public Report such as Hansard, etc.

The **THEESIS** really means statement of principles. Always make clear what your principles are, and state your organisation. Define your principles simply.

**ANTITHESIS** means a condition where your principles are weak or absent.

**SYNTHESIS** means a gradual change from conditions where your principles are weak or absent to a condition where your principles are strong.

**SUMMARY** means a brief review of 2, 3 and 4.

**PERORATION** really means a suggestion of the future when your principles are still more fully developed and accepted.

A humorous reference should be direct, and not subtle. In making your points do not start on too high a note. Work up to it. Then start afresh for your next point and so on.

Do not burden yourself with a lot of figures if you can help it. Use them sparingly and always make sure they can be verified if challenged.

The best way to memorise anything, apart from special systems, is to make headings of your main points. Write them down in succession several times, and then write them boldly on a postcard.

If I can help you further, drop me a line, but do not fail to enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Be brief. Write on one side of the paper only. And above all, use your talents in the cause of the workers. Do not rise on your class, but rise with them.

## PENCILS!!!

Ah! the very thing. Advertise coming events profitably. Pencils with special imprints for Bazaars, Election and Branch Funds—for samples (2d.) write

**SIMON BIRKBECK, Keswick**



**SPECIAL NOTICE.**

Below is a list of articles contained in sundry back copies of the "L.O." We have in hand only a few copies of each number, but for the sum of 1/- we will send post free to any reader a selection of any six numbers.

ORDER TO-DAY—OR BE TOO LATE!

How Registration Work is Done.  
The Rights of Individuals and Affiliated Members.

That Rural Area.

Instructional Literature For Workers.

Libelling a Labour Candidate—  
£200 Damage—Full Report of Trial.

The Agent's Position in Local Elections.

Organising Villages for Labour.  
How to Win a Rural Constituency.

Running a Monthly Newspaper.  
An Explanation of Revision Courts.

The Morals of Canvassing.

Cultivating a Backward Area.

Telling the Tale in Print.

How to Run a Speakers' Class.

Selecting a Candidate.

Maps and Elections.

Canvass Specialists.

The Preparation and Marking of Canvass Cards.

The Organising of Propaganda.

How to Raise Money—the Barrow Scheme.

What an Agent Should Know About Printing.

The Preparation of Envelopes for Election Purposes.

Wanted—A New Corrupt Practices Act.

Notes on the Conduct of Open-Air Meetings.

Hints on Bazaars and Money Raising.

How Secrecy is Maintained in the Polling Booth.

Refreshments to Workers.

Can Labour Win Without the Middle Classes?

A Judge on Banners.

1/- for 6 : : SEND TO-DAY

***A Money Raiser!***

Our English-made polished pencil, selling at 2d. and 3d. is a sure money maker for Labour Organisations.

From 8/- gross.

With special name or slogan.

Samples 3d.



**J. S. REYNOLDS & Co., Ltd.**

Printers of Labour News Sheets,

Wholesale Stationers, etc.,

RIPLEY, DERBYS.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

To the Editor, *The Labour Organiser*.

Dear Sir,

In a few words I want to express my entire agreement with the suggestion in *The Labour Organiser* that an Advisory Committee should be set up by the Labour Party to enquire into the laws relating to the conduct of Elections, and to corrupt practices. In two successive General Elections—London and Mid-Herts (St. Albans)—I met with a strange official mark on ballot papers, viz., a small perforated cross, and this cross was in very many instances stamped in the particular square where a voter would record his vote for the Conservative candidate!

In counting votes, I saw probably hundreds, or even thousands stamped in this way, and marked over in pencil by the voter.

Of course, the presiding officer had improperly stamped the papers, but the temptation was obvious.

Then some means must be found by which all electors may easily be able to vote without being motored for miles! At the last General Election I knew a village where nearly all Labour voters were prevented from voting in consequence of the nearest way to the polling place being under water!

Yours faithfully,

FRED. W. FLEAR.

Kesgrave,  
Near Ipswich.

## TWO USEFUL ELECTION FORMS

### DAILY WORK AND CANVASS RETURN.

Ward \_\_\_\_\_

Date of which Return is made \_\_\_\_\_

	For	Against	Doubtful	Dead
Total previously returned -				
To-day's Return				
Total - - -				

Work done yesterday in addition to Canvass \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Workers \_\_\_\_\_

Ward Clerks must not show this return to anyone, and must make a return to Agent each day.

## WARNING.

**Corrupt and Illegal Practices Acts, and Representation of the People Acts.**

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WHATEVER will any bill, debt, or liability whatsoever be discharged by the Election Agent, unless his WRITTEN AUTHORITY has been obtained for incurring such bill, debt, or liability; or else the written authority of some person to whom the Election Agent has deputed in writing, a license to incur such bill, debt or liability.

THIS NOTICE APPLIES to all persons employed in or about the Election, (and for amounts however small), to all members of the Local Labour Party, Trade Unions, etc., as the case may be, and to the Public generally.

FURTHER NOTICE that no person is employed for payment in or about the Election, save on a written appointment, signed under the hand of the Election Agent, and him only. NO APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT, wages, reward or compensation whatsoever can or will be entertained at any time during or after the Election, save on production of such written appointment as aforesaid.

..... Election Agent  
for .....

Central Labour Committee Room,  
.....

## SOME APPRECIATIONS OF THE "L.O."

Mr. F. W. Flear, Woodbridge D.L.P. :

"The July number of the *Labour Organiser* is excellent."

Mr. Thomas Wood, Hartlepool Division Labour Party :

"I enclose another half-year's subscription for the "L.O.," which I consider THE GOODS."

Mr. A. E. McVie, Coatbridge and Airdrie D.L.P. :

"During the time I have received same I have always found your journal a great help-mate, as it has invariably assisted me in making a success of many things I have tackled in this Division in the interests of our great Movement. I wish it 'Long life and God speed.'"

Mr. J. D. A. Law, York Labour Party :

"If all agents endeavoured to get their ward secretaries and chairmen, also officials of the Party and Women Sections, to take copies there would be no doubt as to the success of the *Labour Organiser* and the Movement generally would benefit as a result."



## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

*Correspondents are required to give their full name and address, not, however, necessarily for publication. Replies from general correspondents cannot be given through the post. It is imperative that where a reply depends on a statement of fact (such, for instance, as qualification of an elector to be on the register), the fullest information should be given.*

### Candidate's Living Expenses.

*Question.* During the General Election our candidate will be living at a local hotel. I understand a candidate may return up to £100 as his personal expenses. Would this mean he would have to include the total cost of his hotel bill?

*Answer.* In returning the total of his personal expenses to his agent the candidate is not compelled to render a detailed account of same, though he must of course be prepared if challenged on petition to substantiate the return he has made. In this respect this item of expense differs from all other items, all of which have to be vouched by bills and receipts (if over £2). A candidate's hotel expenses are definitely laid down by statute to be part of the personal expenses he may return. Thus, in the definition contained in Section 64 of the "Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1883," it is laid down that "the expression 'Personal Expenses' as used with respect to the expenditure of any candidate in relation to any election includes the reasonable travelling expenses of such candidate and the reasonable expenses of his living at hotels or elsewhere for the purpose of and in relation to such election."

It will be noted that the definition above quoted is not an exhaustive definition. It is merely declaratory, and clears up a doubt as to whether the living expenses of the candidate are chargeable against his election account. There is nothing to prevent a candidate entertaining in his customary manner friends during his stay in the constituency and this, of course, would not be returnable. On the other hand if the friends came to help him in the election we think such hospitality would be returnable, and it must not be such as would amount to payment.

Anyway, the answer to our friend's query is quite clear.

### Selling Photo Buttons, etc.

*Question.* Would you mind informing me whether there are any legal difficulties in the way of selling photo-buttons of our candidate during or before the election period or other advertising novelties, e.g., scent sachets, etc.?

*Answer.* The answer to this question is not altogether easy. Our friends may have three motives: (1) to popularise the candidate prior to the election, (3) to provide a mark of distinction during the election, or (3) to raise money for election purposes. Probably there is a little of all three in the motives.

Now it is quite clear that photo-buttons may become a mark of distinction, and therefore the utmost caution must be observed in any dealing in this matter.

A candidate's desire to be popularised in the constituency which he hopes to woo at a future election is a natural and understandable thing. Certainly, it has been understood by election judges who have held not to be illegal quite a number of things which have been done on behalf of future candidates for this purpose. We do not think there is any illegality whatever in the sale of photo-buttons or picture postcards of prospective candidates at normal times, particularly where the principal desire is to raise money.

But when the election gets near special dangers arise. A candidate is expressly forbidden from giving or providing by himself or agent directly or indirectly to any person or inhabitant of his constituency any mark of distinction. Note the word "providing." And a prohibition is also made of any payment or contract on account of marks of distinction. It is clear then that when the election arrives or for some time beforehand the candidate and his agent must be clear of any transactions concerning either photo buttons or any similar matter.

We will go further and say that it is inadvisable at any time for the person who will be associated with the candidate as election agent to order any sort of mark of distinction. It is better done by persons whose objects (such as

# BOUND VOLUMES of the LABOUR ORGANISER

## SPECIAL OFFER

**ONE SET ONLY** of Volumes 4, 5, 6, and 7 (1924, 1925, 1926, and 1927). Original price 9/6 per volume. Now offered at 25/- the set.

**TWO SETS ONLY** of Volumes 5, 6, and 7 (1925, 1926, and 1927). Original price 9/6 per volume. Now offered at 18/- the set.

**FOUR SETS ONLY** of Volumes 6 and 7 (1926 and 1927). 12/- the two.

SEND TO-DAY.

The Editor, The Labour Organiser, Fernhill Heath, near Worcester, or 107, Dale End, Birmingham.

No Labour Agent or Secretary can afford to be without these handsome volumes. Contents entirely fresh and up-to-date.

The only books on the market containing all the latest regulations.

## URGENTLY WANTED

Will readers who have spare copies of the

**MARCH and APRIL ISSUES  
OF THE**

**"LABOUR ORGANISER"**  
please return immediately to the  
Editor. These issues are entirely  
sold out.

**FULL CREDIT GIVEN AT  
PRICE PAID.**

pure profit making) might be clearer. Naturally during an election the public will still demand these things, and there is no law against wearing them or against the wearer providing for himself. Naturally the question arises how he can provide a photo-button for himself. Anyway, neither the candidate nor the agent must "provide" them. There seems to be no law against shopkeepers or independent persons putting such matters for sale and our friends must shape their actions in the light of these remarks.

### Party Newspaper During Election.

*Question.* What is the position regarding our paper during the General Election. Do you think that as a Party paper it ought to be suspended; should it be under the control of independent people. Shall we not be transgressing the law if the paper advocates our candidate's interest too strongly?

*Answer.* The paper referred to is a regular monthly Labour newspaper. The point at issue is in what way this paper will differ from any daily, weekly or monthly periodicals. The law in relation to it will not, of course, differ at all *provided* the paper maintains its usual form of contents. The *Daily Mail* and other newspapers devote a big part of their space at an election to a part in the national campaign, and they give advice to electors to vote for particular persons. There is nothing illegal in this, but when it comes to such interest and concern in particular contests as to amount to taking part in a candidate's campaign then this interference becomes illegal. It is precisely the same with our friend's monthly journal. But there is the difference that this paper is localised; it is run by the same people who will be the agents for Mr. X., and it may be under the suspicion of being entirely run with an eye to his Parliamentary interests. Probably this is the view the judges would take of it during an election. It would be exceedingly difficult for our friends to carry on as if nothing was happening. A national newspaper is in rather a different category in this respect and altogether the interests of the candidate and of the paper would be best served by a plain understanding as to agency.

This would mean that the help of the paper would be definitely accepted by the election agent. He would return a



suitable portion of the expenses of the paper as a part of the candidate's expenses, and the road would be clear for the paper's special and generous help.

We have answered this question from the legal standpoint, but there should be no two shakes about it that when the election comes the duty of the paper is to throw its whole weight into the contest and to accept the law which compels its expenses in this matter to be returned.

### Policemen's Votes.

*Question.* Can you please tell me what is the position regarding policemen and the returning officer's clerks and their votes. At the last election we discovered that these people were voting all over the shop and not in their proper polling districts. Have the Presiding Officers power to allow them to do this?

*Answer.* So far as the votes of any elector employed by the Returning Officer is concerned Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, applies.

By this Act any of these electors who are in the opinion of the Returning Officer employed by him in such circumstances as to prevent them from voting at the polling station at which they would otherwise be entitled to vote are allowed to vote elsewhere. The returning officer must give a certificate in the "prescribed form" and the polling station named in the form then becomes the one which is deemed to be the polling station allotted to the elector for the purposes of the Act.

It will be seen that the Presiding Officer and clerks are not therefore allowed to vote "all over the shop." In effect they must notify the returning officer where they wish to vote and he in turn must then issue an authority enabling them to vote at that polling place.

The prescribed form is as follows:—  
CONSTITUENCY OF

I, the returning officer for the above constituency, hereby certify that A.B., being numbered \_\_\_\_\_ on the register of electors for the Polling District of the above-mentioned constituency, is employed by me for purposes in connection with an elec-

tion for the said constituency, and that the circumstances of his employment are in my opinion such as to prevent him voting at the polling station at which he would otherwise be entitled to vote, and I accordingly authorise him to vote at the polling station \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ polling place.

(Signed)

RETURNING OFFICER.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_.

In the case of a person entitled to vote as proxy the above certificate should run:—

I, the returning officer for the above constituency, hereby certify that C.D., being entitled to vote as proxy for A.B., numbered \_\_\_\_\_ on the register of electors for the Polling District, etc.

The section of the R.P. Act quoted does not apply to policemen. But by the "Police Disabilities Removal Act, 1887" any Constable who is or is likely to be on the day of any election sent or employed in the discharge of his duty so as to prevent him voting at the polling booth or station at which he would otherwise be entitled by law to vote, may within seven days before the election apply to the Chief Constable for a certificate and the Chief Constable must thereupon give a certificate under his hand stating the name of the Constable, his number in the Police Force, and number and description on the register of electors, and the fact that he is so sent or employed. The Presiding Officer at any polling booth or station shall on production by such Constable of the certificate allow him to vote at such booth or station. It is the duty of the Presiding Officer to forthwith cancel the certificate and to treat the vote afterwards in the same way as other votes properly cast at his station.

### A Lodger's Vote.

*Question.* I wonder if you would be kind enough to give me an answer to the following question. Is the following person entitled to a Local Government vote? Male, aged 27; fully occupied as teacher in County Council school, but takes in pupils for music lessons. Living at home with parents but all articles in one room—piano,

etc., which is used to receive pupils, belong to this person.

*Answer.* If otherwise qualified in respect of age and qualifying period the person named would be entitled to a Parliamentary vote but unless he rents his room unfurnished he would not be entitled to a Local Government vote. It is the essence of this qualification that a room or rooms shall be rented unfurnished and notwithstanding that all the furniture in a room may belong to him unless this essential condition is fulfilled he is not qualified.

#### **Filling District Council Vacancy.**

*Question.* A vacancy has occurred on our District Council owing to the death of an old member. At the last election one of our candidates obtained the highest number of votes among the losers. We have heard that it has been the custom in the case of a vacancy like this to co-opt the loser who polled the most votes on the last occasion. We also hear now that it is the intention of the Tories on the Council to disregard this custom and to co-opt one of their own members. Can you please advise us on this matter?

*Answer.* We are afraid our friends are altogether misinformed. There is no such thing as co-option or the election of an outside person on a District Council. The only occasions where an outside person may be elected to a public body is in the case of County and Borough Councils and of Parish Councils. In the two former cases the Aldermen may be elected from outside. In the case of a Parish Council a casual vacancy among Parish Councillors or in the office of Chairman can be filled by the Parish Council without election, and where there is no Parish Council a casual vacancy in the office of chairman of the Parish Meeting may be filled by the Parish meeting.

With regard to casual vacancies on District Councils these are subject to similar conditions to Municipal Councils, but with the difference that notice of the vacancy must be given by two Councillors (not merely electors) and that the election must be held within one month after such notice. In the case of Municipal Elections two Burgeesses may give the notice and the election must be held within 14 days thereafter.

## **For BADGES**

in Gold, Silver, Gilt, Enamel, and Celluloid.

## **MEDALS**

in Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

## **CUPS**

in Silver; and Silver Plated.

## **SPORTS & WHIST DRIVE PRIZES**

Send to the Maker:—

**E. SMITH**

**59 Caroline Street,  
BIRMINGHAM.**

Samples and selections of goods sent on approval for 7 days on receipt of remittance. Money returned if goods not approved of.

Designs and Estimates submitted.

## **L.O. TO ITS READERS.**

With this issue we commence our ninth year of publication. During the eventful years in which we have sought faithfully to serve the Labour movement we have received probably over 1,000 letters of congratulation and praise for our work. What seems to us to have been of greater moment is the fact that letters to the "Labour Organiser" asking for help and advice amount to several hundreds each year. Though this entails a great drain upon our time and energy we are glad to render this service freely to workers in the Labour Cause.

Readers are reminded that a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed with all communications requiring a postal reply, otherwise their queries will be dealt with in the columns of the "L.O."

Owing to frequent absences from home on Labour Party business it is impossible for the Editor to answer all letters by return of post.